

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 12, 2011 has been entered.
2. New claim 26 has been added. Claims 14-26 are currently pending.
3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stephen R. Funk, Esq. on May 31, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 14, line 9, the words "arranged to" have been deleted;

In claim 14, line 11, the words "arranged to stop" have been replaced with -- stops--;

In claim 21, line 3, after the first instance of the word "and" the words --the distal ends of-- have been added;

In claim 21, line 3, the words "are arranged such that the distal ends thereof" have been deleted; and

In claim 26, line 2, the words "arranged to stop" have been replaced with --stops--.

Specification

4. The amendments to the specification have been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 14-26 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not anticipate or render obvious an actuation force transmission mechanism having first and second coupling parts, first and second biasing mechanisms urge the first and second coupling parts toward a neutral position; a first stopper mechanism stops the relative movement between the first and second coupling parts when one of the first and second coupling parts is moved from the neutral position against an urging force of the first biasing mechanism being compressed and as the second biasing mechanism is decompressed; wherein the first coupling part moves relative to the second coupling part against the urging force of the first biasing mechanism being compressed and as the second biasing mechanism is decompressed until the first coupling part is stopped by the first stopper mechanism, and in response to a continuing resistive force, the first and second coupling parts move together when the first coupling part is stopped by the first stopper mechanism and the remaining structure of claim 14.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUSTIN HOLMES whose telephone number is (571)272-3448. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am to 5:30pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David D. Le can be reached on 571-272-7092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JUSTIN HOLMES/
Examiner, Art Unit 3655